



Town of Hanover
Department of Public Works
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DRINKING WATER WARNING

Hanover water is contaminated with total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOIL YOUR WATER

Total coliform bacteria and *E. coli* bacteria were found in a routine sample collected from the water supply on September 20, 2011. We were notified of this detection on September 21, 2011. On September 22, 2011, we collected [14] repeat samples from the distribution system as required. On September 23, 2011 we were notified that 7 of those repeat samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. These positive repeat samples constitutes an Acute MCL violation and a Monthly MCL violation for month of September, 2011. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions because the chlorine level in the water is being increased** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
- *Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.*
- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What happened? What is being done?

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

The corrective action we have taken is to increase the chlorine residual coming out of Treatment Plants, adding chlorine to our storage tanks and flushing the distribution system. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria. We anticipate resolving the problem within a week.

For more information, please contact Water Supervisor Doug Billings at (781) 826-3189 or 40 Pond St. Hanover, MA 02339. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Hanover DPW PWS ID#: 412200 Date Distributed: 9/23/2011

